

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## USTR ZOELICK TO TRAVEL TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Plans to advance Doha Agenda, discuss cotton, learn about Africa's needs..... 1

## MORE TARGETED ANTI-HUNGER POLICIES NEEDED, USAID OFFICIAL SAYS

Sub-Saharan Africa particularly at risk ..... 2

## U.S. OFFICIAL ADDRESSES FIRST PLENARY CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING

State's Watson says U.S. taking a "different path" to address issue ..... 3

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HYDROGEN ECONOMY CLOSES FIRST YEAR

European Commission, 15 nations collaborate on hydrogen research..... 5

## 800,000 PEOPLE TRAFFICKED YEARLY, U.S. LABOR SECRETARY SAYS

Number rises to 2-4 million when intracountry trafficking counted..... 5

## STATE'S HOLMES URGES NEW U.N. COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY

Assistant Secretary Kim Holmes addresses Venice conference..... 6

## USTR ZOELICK TO TRAVEL TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Plans to advance Doha Agenda, discuss cotton, learn about Africa's needs

Washington --- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert B. Zoellick travels to three countries in West Africa December 7-10 to discuss ways to further global trade liberalization through the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Agenda and to learn more about Africa's needs on cotton and other key products.

Zoellick's visit to Senegal, Benin and Mali will fulfill a pledge he made to West African trade ministers in Geneva earlier in 2004 to continue a dialogue with African countries interested in the global cotton trade and development.

These three countries also receive special trade access to the U.S. market under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and are candidates for development funding under the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), an innovative approach to aid initiated by President Bush.

"African nations and the United States share many common interests in the WTO negotiations, and I look forward to discussing how we can build on our cooperative efforts to advance both the Doha agenda and our bilateral trading ties," Zoellick noted in a press release announcing his trip.

“To fulfill the promise of these negotiations and address trade matters of concern to Africa and the United States, including cotton, we need an ambitious overall reform package in the Doha WTO negotiations that includes broad agriculture trade reform and other trade liberalization.”

Following stops in West Africa, Zoellick will travel to Namibia and Lesotho on December 10-13 to discuss AGOA and bilateral trade and development initiatives.

In Namibia, Zoellick will meet with trade ministers from the five Southern African Customs Union (SACU) countries -- Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland -- to advance ongoing negotiations toward a U.S.-SACU Free Trade Agreement.

In addition to meeting ministers responsible for trade at each stop, Zoellick will also see local legislators, farmers and businesspeople to hear Africans' perspectives on how open markets and expanded trade can help to raise living standards and overcome poverty. He will also visit facilities that benefit from duty-free access to the U.S. market under AGOA and sites that might be the focus of funding from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

“In addition to discussing the WTO negotiations, I plan to listen and learn more about the economic success of AGOA. I also want to discuss the opportunities we have to further connect free trade and open commerce to economic growth, regional integration, and political reforms through MCC development aid. I look forward to the opportunity to reaffirm our vision for a comprehensive free trade agreement with SACU and to see how we can move the negotiations forward,” Zoellick said.

This will be Zoellick's fifth visit to sub-Saharan Africa as USTR and his third trip in 2004. He will be accompanied by Assistant USTR for Africa Florie Liser, Assistant USTR for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison Chris Padilla, Assistant USTR for Trade Capacity Building Mary Ryckman, and Director for WTO Agricultural Negotiations Jason Hafemeister.

## MORE TARGETED ANTI-HUNGER POLICIES NEEDED, USAID OFFICIAL SAYS

Sub-Saharan Africa particularly at risk, Simmons adds

By Kathryn McConnell  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Changing patterns in global food supply and demand, population growth, and limited expansion of agricultural resources indicate that without more targeted agricultural development policies, developing countries -- particularly in sub-Saharan Africa -- will experience significantly more hunger in 2011 than in 2001, said a top U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) official.

More developing countries must adopt self-sustaining agricultural policies, said Emmy Simmons, USAID assistant administrator for economic growth, agriculture and trade, at a December 2 world hunger conference outside Washington.

The conference was sponsored by the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, a program supported by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the University of Maryland.

Sub-Saharan Africa is getting further from meeting the internationally accepted goal of halving by 2015 from the 1990 level the number of people living with hunger, Simmons said.

Currently, 38 percent of the region's population experiences chronic hunger. Without an increased focus on agricultural development, 50 percent of sub-Saharan Africa's people could be hungry by 2011, she added.

Increased income levels in some Asian emerging economies -- particularly in China -- are resulting in demand for more types of food, such as meat, that require more agricultural inputs. That means that the poorest countries are facing increasing competition for food staples from global supplies. Because people in the poorest countries do not have the purchasing power to buy food imports, they must rely on their own ability to produce the food they need, Simmons said.

She urged developing countries that still support food prices to change their policies. Artificially low food prices are a disincentive to local farmers to grow food

that could feed their communities or be sold and generate income.

Simmons said governments also should lower their barriers to trade so that more food can be available to their populations at lower prices.

Mali is a good example of a country that has adopted agricultural policy reforms, stated Simmons. For instance, the West African country has invested in broadening its irrigation systems, increasing the capacity of its arable land to produce food. Mali also has liberalized food prices and established a market information system, which is updated daily, so farmers can learn about the current prices being offered for their products. A model for other countries in the developing world, Mali has established buffer stocks of both food and money that can be tapped in the event of a climatic crisis.

Simmons indicated that to help developing countries become self-sufficient in feeding their populations, USAID supports efforts to expand trade so as to increase farmers' access to adequate information, distribution and storage systems.

USAID also supports the mobilization of science and technology to increase both production quantities and the value of farm outputs. Toward that end, the agency is working to build more partnerships with agricultural research institutions in the United States and in the developing world, with a focus on adaptive research.

Cliff Gabriel, associate director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, cited examples of current agricultural research being conducted with U.S. support, such as root-health improvements so that plants can grow in weak and dry soils.

Other efforts are going into technologies that decrease evaporation rates of scarce waters resources and that boost nutrition levels of foods, he added.

## U.S. OFFICIAL ADDRESSES FIRST PLENARY CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING

State's Watson says U.S. taking a "different path" to address issue

The United States is committed to substantively addressing climate change, a State Department official tells the 10th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-10) in Buenos Aires.

"Many here today are looking forward to the Kyoto Protocol's entry into force," Harlan Watson, senior climate negotiator and special representative, State Department Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, said December 6.

"The United States has chosen a different path," he added, "and I want to make it clear that we are taking substantial actions to address climate change. The United States remains committed to the Framework Convention, and we are doing much to contribute to its objective."

COP-10 marks the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Meeting discussions will address accomplishments of the last 10 years and future challenges, and highlight a range of climate-related issues, including the impacts of climate change and adaptation measures, mitigation policies and their impacts, and technology. Participants will also discuss the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol is an amendment to the UNFCCC negotiated in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997. Countries that ratify this protocol commit to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases or to engage in emissions trading if they maintain or increase emissions of these gases, which have been linked to global warming.

Watson said the three-pronged U.S. approach to climate change includes slowing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions by reducing U.S. greenhouse gas intensity (emissions per pound of production); laying groundwork for current and future action through major investments in science, technology and institutions; and cooperating internationally with other nations to develop an efficient and effective global response.

Watson also described U.S. bilateral and multilateral climate change partnerships.

“Bilaterally, we have partnerships with 14 countries and regional organizations, and are working with them on over 200 projects in the areas of climate change research and science, climate observation systems, clean and advanced energy technologies, and policy approaches to reducing GHG emissions,” he said. “We also continue to assist many developing country efforts to build the scientific and technological capacity needed to address climate change.

Five multilateral climate change science and technology initiatives include: the Group on Earth Observations, the Generation IV International Forum, the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy and the Methane-to-Markets Partnership, he said.

Text of the Watson statement follows:

Statement to the First Meeting of the Plenary  
Dr. Harlan L. Watson  
Senior Climate Negotiator and Special Representative  
and  
Alternate Head of the U.S. Delegation

Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10)  
to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
December 6, 2004

Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to congratulate you on your election as President of COP 10, and to express the United States’ gratitude to the Government and people of Argentina for their warm and generous hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made for this COP. I am confident we will have a productive Conference, and we look forward to participating constructively in its work.

Many here today are looking forward to the Kyoto Protocol’s entry into force. The United States has chosen a different path and I want to make it clear that we are taking substantial actions to address climate change. The United States remains committed to the Framework Convention, and we are doing much to contribute to its objective.

The U.S. three-prong approach to climate change addresses both its near-term and long-term aspects by: (1) slowing the growth of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by reducing our GHG intensity; (2) laying important groundwork for both current and future action through major investments in science, technology, and institutions; and (3) cooperating internationally with other nations to develop an efficient and effective global response.

Meeting President Bush’s near-term goal of reducing U.S. GHG intensity (GHG emissions per dollar of GDP) by 18 percent over the next 10 years represents a nearly 30% improvement over business-as-usual, and will achieve more than 500 million metric tons of carbon-equivalent emissions reductions from business-as-usual estimates through 2012 -- an amount equal to taking 70 million cars off the road.

Robust scientific research is needed to better understand the climate issue, and the United States has been pleased to have taken a leadership role in funding climate change science with a current expenditure of \$2 billion annually and a total expenditure of more than \$23 billion since 1990. We also believe that laying the foundation on technology is the most practical step that can be taken to address this issue in a manner that will be sustainable and successful over the long term. At home, we will spend nearly \$3 billion this year -- far more than any other country -- to accelerate the development and deployment of key technologies, such as renewables, energy efficiency, advanced fossil and nuclear, hydrogen, and carbon capture and storage, that have to potential to achieve substantial GHG emissions reductions.

Internationally, the United States is implementing bilateral and multilateral climate change partnerships. Bilaterally, we have partnerships with 14 countries and regional organizations, and are working with them on over 200 projects in the areas of climate change research and science, climate observation systems, clean and advanced energy technologies, and policy approaches to reducing GHG emissions. We also continue to assist many developing country efforts to build the scientific and technological capacity needed to address climate change.

The United States has also initiated five multilateral climate change science and technology initiatives, including the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the Generation IV International Forum (GIF), the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF), the Interna-

tional Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE), and most recently, the Methane-to-Markets Partnership.

Thirteen countries joined the U.S. last month in a Ministerial meeting in Washington to launch an innovative program to help promote energy security, improve environmental quality, and reduce GHG emissions throughout the world by working closely with the private sector in targeting methane currently wasted from leaky oil and gas systems, from underground coal mines, and from landfills. The U.S. intends to commit up to \$53 million to the Partnership over the next five years.

Mr. President, President Bush made a commitment in June 2001 to develop with friends and allies and nations throughout the world an effective and science-based response to address climate change. His climate change policy recognizes that efforts to address climate change will only be sustainable if they also serve a larger purpose of fostering prosperity and well being for citizens around the globe. In this regard, we recall Article 3 of the Framework Convention, which acknowledges that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change.

The United States supports the development of an integrated approach through partnerships among governments, the private sector and NGOs that promote economic growth, improve economic efficiency and productivity, enhance energy security, increase the availability of cleaner, more efficient energy resources, and reduce pollution -- all in ways that have the effect of reducing greenhouse gas intensity of economies. And we look forward to working with all Parties to achieve these goals.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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#### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HYDROGEN ECONOMY CLOSES FIRST YEAR

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European Commission, 15 nations collaborate on hydrogen research

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham congratulated the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE) December 6 on its successful first year.

Led by the United States, 15 nations and the European Commission established the IPHE in 2003, according to a Department of Energy (DOE) press release.

Partners include Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Commission, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In 2004, the Department of Energy (DOE) awarded the first \$350 million of the \$1.2 billion that President Bush has committed to hydrogen research.

The development of hydrogen technology is a key element of a U.S. policy on climate change that seeks to harness "the power of markets and technological innovation, maintains economic growth, and encourages global participation," Abraham has stated. The Bush administration has touted a transition to hydrogen as a major energy carrier as potentially transforming the U.S. energy system and reducing emissions of air pollutants and carbon dioxide.

Although the potential benefits of hydrogen and fuel cells are significant, many challenges, technical and otherwise, must be overcome before this technology offers a competitive alternative for consumers.

In its second year, the IPHE partners plan to produce an integrated road map to better coordinate national hydrogen and fuel cell research and development programs.

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#### 800,000 PEOPLE TRAFFICKED YEARLY, U.S. LABOR SECRETARY SAYS

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Number rises to 2-4 million when intracountry trafficking counted

As many as 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders every year, says U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao.

Speaking December 6 at a conference in Washington on trafficking in persons in North America, Chao said that including intracountry trafficking, the number of persons affected is 2-4 million.

The United States has spent \$125 million on international efforts to combat human trafficking, Chao said.

The conference is part of joint anti-trafficking activities between the United States, Canada, Mexico and



the North American Agreement of Labor cooperation (NAALC).

Following is the text of the Labor Department's press release:

December 6, 2004

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Labor Secretary Addresses Challenges to Combating Human Trafficking at Conference on Trafficking in Persons in North America

Also Cites Progress Made Against This Terrible Form of "Modern-Day Slavery"

WASHINGTON -- Speaking today at the Conference on Trafficking in Persons in North America, U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao outlined the international scope of human trafficking and the Department's efforts to combat it.

"The evil of trafficking in human beings must be stopped," Chao said. "The worldwide incidence of men, women and children being enslaved demands a vigorous and sustained international effort to rescue victims and protect future generations."

U.S. Labor Secretary Chao, a member of the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, discussed the department's efforts to curb human trafficking in America and abroad. The U.S. Department of Labor has provided more than \$125 million to support international efforts to combat trafficking in persons, and has launched projects to combat this practice in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Europe.

It is estimated that 600,000 to 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders every year, with about 17,500 entering the United States, according to the 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report. The number of people affected increases to two to four million if intra-country trafficking is included, the report states.

The two-day conference, which runs through Tuesday, is part of ongoing cooperative activities between the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States under the North American Agreement of Labor Cooperation (NAALC). This is the first time an NAALC conference has focused on trafficking in persons. Conference participants will examine key factors relating to human trafficking in North America, exchange information on

successful anti-trafficking approaches and discuss areas of potential cooperation. Representatives from the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Canadian and Mexican governments, employers and workers also will participate in the conference.

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#### STATE'S HOLMES URGES NEW U.N. COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY

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Assistant Secretary Kim Holmes addresses Venice conference

The United Nations should place a new emphasis on promoting democratic, governance, values and institutions, according to Assistant Secretary of State Kim Holmes.

"There is a democracy deficit in the UN today," said Holmes, head of the State Department's Bureau for International Organization Affairs, in remarks to a conference on transatlantic relations November 20 in Venice.

Holmes offered his observations on the United Nations while discussing the promotion of shared values through the transatlantic relationship and multilateral institutions like the United Nations.

In his view, democratic states should champion at the United Nations the principles on which the U.N. Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights were based: democracy, freedom and human rights.

He called it "a profound mistake" for some U.N. members to take freedom for granted.

"They become confused about where the real threats to freedom lie. They accept double standards about who deserves freedom and who does not. And some of them even question whether freedom is necessary at all for human development."

While expressing optimism about the transatlantic relationship, he cautioned that two things could threaten NATO's success in the future: the growing gap in military capabilities between the United States and its allies and "a movement to envision Europe as an alternative or counterweight to America."

The United Nations will likewise never be effective if other countries see it as a “counterweight” to the United States.

Holmes suggested that baseline standards be created for membership on the U.N. Commission on Human Rights so that states that condone slavery or genocide are rendered ineligible.

He took issue with those who believe the United Nations has a monopoly on “legitimacy” or the use of force, saying they are avoiding the evidence and misreading the U.N. Charter. “The UN is a political entity whose members protect their interests,” he said.

“Legitimate actions do not emanate from a bureaucracy of unelected officials who disdain transparency and accountability. Nor do they necessarily come from an entity that gives equal voice to representative democracies, totalitarian regimes, and human rights abusers alike,” he said.

He cautioned that the U.N. Security Council “is not the sole or even the main source of international law --- even in cases involving international peace and security.”

Recalling President Bush’s speech to the U.N. General Assembly in September, Holmes said the defeat of terror, the protection of human rights, the spread of prosperity, and the advance of democracy and freedom are what will keep Americans and Europeans together, not territorial security or economic interests alone.

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